



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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POA CURTA **SHORT-LEAVED BLUEGRASS**

Short-leaved Bluegrass is a perennial with stems that are 30-60 cm tall, and arising from rhizomes. Leaf blades are short, flat, often drooping, and 3-5 mm wide with prow-like tips. Leaf sheaths surrounding the stem are glabrous and closed nearly to the top. There is a lance-shaped white ligule that is 1-2 mm long. Foliage is glabrous or slightly roughened. The spikelets are 6-9 mm long and are borne on branch tips in a small, open inflorescence. Each spikelet has 2 glumes at the base enfolding the 3-4 flowers. Lemmas are ca. 5 mm long, strongly keeled, prominently nerved, and nearly glabrous. Each flower has both fertile stamens and a pistil. Fruiting by late June - July.

POA NERVOSA is very similar to *P. CURTA* and occurs in the same habitats, but nearly all of its flowers lack stamens. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.